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More Than 1,500 Public Corruption Convictions Just in Illinois

Illinois' Economic Outlook Ranks 47th in the Nation

CHICAGO - With the corruption trial of disgraced ex-Governor Rod Blagojevich starting in June, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk and Illinois State Sen. Matt Murphy today announced a new effort to boost the U.S. Department of Justice's public integrity resources to prosecute public corruption by elected officials. More than 1,500 individuals have been convicted of public corruption crimes

just in Illinois in the last generation.

“The Land of Honest Abe has become the Land of Corruption with Illinois taxpayers paying the price,” Congressman Kirk said. “According to three University of Illinois studies, the working families of Illinois are forced to pay over \$500 million annually in hidden corruption taxes. At multiple levels of government, we see rigged contracts, ghost payrolls and secret kickback schemes.

We need to give the FBI and federal prosecutors the tools they need to crack down on corruption and restore integrity to the State of Illinois.”

Data collected from the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that Illinois is the sixth most corrupt state in the country based on total public integrity convictions. Our main competitor states of Indiana and Wisconsin have corruption rates that are less than a third of Illinois.

If just northern Illinois were its own state, it would rank ninth highest in the nation for corruption.

Congressman Kirk’s *Public Integrity Anti-Corruption Act* would provide additional resources to law enforcement to target officials who violate the people’s trust.

“If we are serious about bringing jobs back to Illinois, we must end the hidden corruption tax we are all forced to pay,” Kirk said.

“Above all else, the people of Illinois desperately need jobs,” Sen. Murphy said. “This measure

will improve our jobs climate by sending a message to job creators that we are committed to ending the old way of doing business in Illinois and that they can invest in Illinois without being shaken down."

During our own generation (since 1972), four Illinois governors have been criminally indicted along with convictions of two congressmen, 19 judges, 30 aldermen and a total of 1,000 Illinois public officials and bribe makers. This includes 150 convicted Cook County officials alone.

Illinois citizens witnessed 352 public officials charged and/or convicted in 10 separate U.S. Department of Justice/FBI operations, including: *Operation Safebet* (75 convictions), *Operation Gambat* (24 convictions), *Operation Incubator* (7 convictions), *Operation Greylord* (87 convictions), *Operation Haunted Hall* (35 convictions), *Operation Family Secrets* (14 convictions), *Operation Sliver Shovel* (18 convictions) and *Operation Safe Roads* (79 charged). Still ongoing investigations include the \$100 million Hired Truck Scandal and *Operation Board Games* (13 charged, including Gov. Blagojevich).

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Political Science Department estimates the corruption tax costs Illinois families \$500 million annually, including over \$40 million in federally identified costs just for *Operation Board Games* (\$22 million), *Operation Safe Roads* (\$5 million) *Operation Family Secrets* (\$4.3 million), *Operation Silver Shovel* (\$5.4 million) and *Operation Haunted Hall* (\$3 million).
(Source: UIC Political Science Department Reports (Part 1: February 3, 2009, Part 2: May 13, 2009 and Part 3: February 18, 2010))

Illinois **Governors**



Kerner



Shapiro



Ogilvie



Walker



Thompson



Edgar

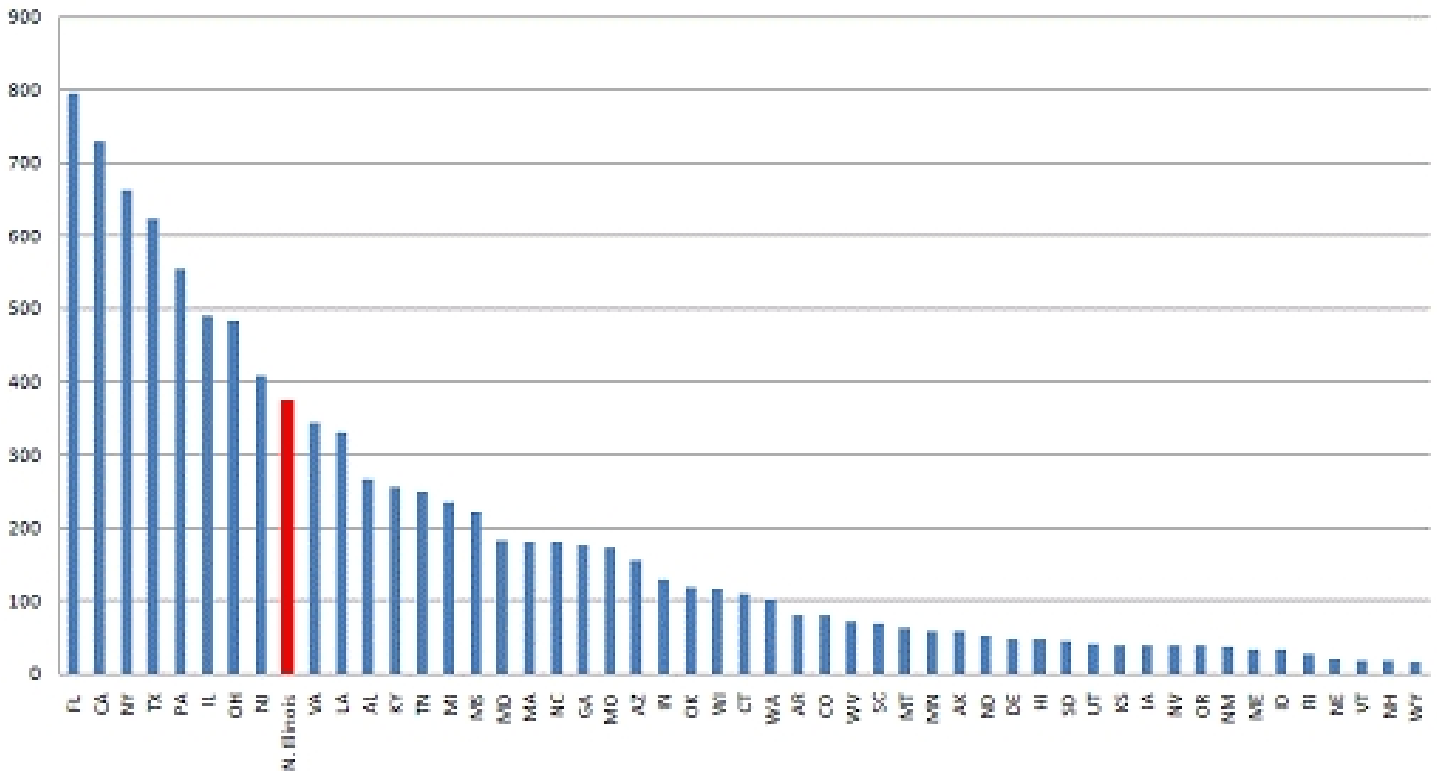


Ryan



Blagojevich

Public Corruption Convictions 1999 - 2008



Source: U.S. Department of Justice

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